

TYRINGHAM SHAKER SETTLEMENT,
OXBARN
Jerusalem Road
Tyringham
Berkshire County
Massachusetts

HABS NO. MA-1238-A

HABS
MASS,
2-TYR,
2-A

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABS
MASS,
2-TYR,
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Berkshire	TOWN OR VICINITY Tyringham
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) TYRINGHAM SHAKER SETTLEMENT, OX BARN		HABS NO. MA-1238-A
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1792-1800 (National Register nomination)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This barn is the largest and among the original buildings of this extraordinarily well preserved Shaker settlement. Established in 1792 by 3 brothers: Joshua, Abel & William Allen, it was the 4th Shaker settlement in Massachusetts. It operated until 1874. *		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Massive post & beam structural system, sheathed in clapboard, with coursed rubble foundation. Enormous timbers joined with tierods form a truss system inside.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) T-shaped plan, the structure is banked to conform to the hillside location. A covered bridge leads from the upper roadway to the hayloft, the main section is accessed beneath.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE heavy timber doors, pent over 1st story facade		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) enormous timbers of post & beam construction and truss system. Horse stalls on lower level.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The cattle shed attached to the rear of the barn was converted into an apartment.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition; used as a barn and apartment.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE *The Shakers held property in common and developed a sophisticated agricultural and manufacturing system that allowed them to be self sufficient. The barn reflects their principles in that it is simple yet functional and large enough to accomodate the entire community's needs.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register nomination, prepared by Betsy Friedberg & James Bradley, Massachusetts Historical Commission, June 1987.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Lavoie, Historian, HABS/HAER		DATE February 1989